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REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks and allowability of claims 7-10. New claims 13-16 are presented. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, and 5-16 are pending in the application.

The drawings were objected to because they do not include the reference characters 25, 30, 25s, and 25r, and because the reference character 24 has been used to designate two different elements. Replacement drawings are filed herewith and now include the reference numeral 25. Additionally, paragraph 19 of the specification has been amended to delete reference to numeral 30, and to correct the use of reference numeral 24. Additionally, the reference characters 25s and 25r have been deleted from the drawings. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections be withdrawn.

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The examiner points out that claims 7 and 8 recite the use of input and return connectors, but that the specification does not specifically mention these connections.

The specification recites connectors 30i and 30o, which are connected with the respective pneumatic input and return sections of the manifold as input and return connectors. New paragraph 19 submitted above makes specific reference to 30i and 30o as the input and return connectors. Thus, claims 7-10 are enabled for the use of input and return connectors, such as threaded types of connectors. For this reason, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 3, 6, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Scherf. Respectfully, the structure of Scherf does not meet the limitations of independent claim 12. Independent claim 12 recites that the gutter wall "includes two spaced apart side walls and a bottom wall that define the liquid passage" and that the airflow passage "extends through at least one of the two spaced apart side walls or the bottom wall." The Examiner interprets the structure of Scherf as including two spaced apart side walls 19 and 20 and a bottom wall 22 having air passages 30 that extend through the bottom wall 22. However, as shown in Figure 3 of Scherf, the bottom wall 22 is spaced apart from another bottom wall 21 that defines the liquid passage of the gutter. Therefore, the structure of Scherf does not meet the limitations of claim 12 because

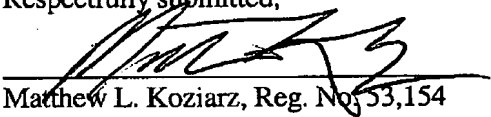
67,067-012

the bottom wall 21 that defines the liquid passage does not include air flow passages and the other bottom wall 22 that does include the air passages 30 does not define the liquid passage, as claimed. For at least this reason, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Scherf. The Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have selected either linear or non-linear air flow passages as an obvious matter of design choice. Whether one of ordinary skill in the art could select air passages to meet the terms of the claim is not sufficient to support obviousness. There must be a motivational reason to make the changes to the cited reference (see MPEP §2144.04). Furthermore, the Examiner has the burden of establishing motivation, and there is no burden on the Applicant to prove that the claimed features have criticality as the Examiner suggests. For these reasons, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (571) 273-8300, on August 31, 2007.


Laura Combs